IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for securing a flexible filament, said apparatus comprising:

a bone fixation element having a distal end and a proximal end, a central bore extending between said distal end and said proximal end, and a threaded counterbore opening on said proximal end and terminating short of said distal end, said central bore having a first diameter large enough to receive the flexible filament therethrough, said threaded counterbore having a second larger diameter; and

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a threaded collet having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end comprising a leading tapered section and said proximal end comprising a trailing threaded section, a collet bore extending between said distal end and said proximal end, said collet bore at said leading tapered section having an initial diameter, and said leading tapered section having a slit formed therein for selectively reducing said initial diameter of said collet bore,

wherein screwing said trailing threaded section of said threaded collet into said threaded counterbore of said bone

fixation element forces said leading tapered section of said threaded collet radially inwardly so as to reduce said initial diameter of said collet bore, whereby to clamp the flexible filament to said threaded collet and, in turn, to said bone fixation element.

2. (Amended) Apparatus for reconstructing a ligament, said apparatus comprising:

a bone fixation element having a distal end and a proximal end, and a central bore extending between said distal end and said proximal end, said central bore having a first diameter, and said bone fixation element being adapted for positioning in a bone tunnel;

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a flexible filament having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end having retaining means for holding a graft ligament, and said flexible filament having a second diameter smaller than said first diameter so as to allow said flexible filament to slidingly pass through said central bore of said bone fixation element, whereby said flexible filament holding the graft ligament in the bone tunnel is slideably positionable through said central bore of said bone fixation element; and

a crimp configured ~~having retaining means~~ for attachment to said flexible filament, said crimp having at least one given cross-sectional width, said at least one given cross-sectional width ~~a third diameter, said third diameter~~ being greater than said first diameter, whereby said crimp is fixedly positionable to said flexible filament adjacent to said proximal end of said bone fixation element so as to prevent distal movement of said flexible filament relative to said bone fixation element and hence prevent distal movement of said graft ligament in the bone tunnel.

3. (Withdrawn) A method for securing a flexible filament, said method comprising:

providing apparatus for securing a flexible filament, said apparatus comprising:

a bone fixation element having a distal end and a proximal end, a central bore extending between said distal end and said proximal end, and a threaded counterbore opening on said proximal end and terminating short of said distal end, said central bore having a first diameter large enough to receive the

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flexible filament therethrough, said threaded counterbore having a second larger diameter; and

a threaded collet having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end comprising a leading tapered section and said proximal end comprising a trailing threaded section, a collet bore extending between said distal end and said proximal end, said collet bore at said leading tapered section having an initial diameter, and said leading tapered section having a slit formed therein for selectively reducing said initial diameter of said collet bore,

wherein screwing said trailing threaded section of said threaded collet into said threaded counterbore of said bone fixation element forces said leading tapered section of said threaded collet radially inwardly so as to reduce said initial diameter of said collet bore, whereby to clamp the flexible filament to said threaded collet and, in turn, to said bone fixation element;

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positioning a flexible filament through said central bore of said bone fixation element, and positioning said bone fixation element in a first bone tunnel portion, and positioning

a graft ligament in a second bone tunnel portion by drawing the flexible filament through said bone fixation element; and

screwing said threaded collet into said bone fixation element so as to clamp the flexible filament to said collet and hence to said bone fixation element.

4. (Amended) A method for reconstructing a ligament, said method comprises:

providing apparatus for reconstructing a ligament, said apparatus comprising:

a bone fixation element having a distal end and a proximal end, and a central bore extending between said distal end and said proximal end, said central bore having a first diameter, and said bone fixation element being adapted for positioning in a bone tunnel;

a flexible filament having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal end having retaining means for holding a graft ligament, and said flexible filament having a second diameter smaller than said first diameter so as to allow said flexible filament to slidingly pass through said central bore of said bone fixation element, whereby said flexible filament holding

the graft ligament in the bone tunnel is slideably positionable through said central bore of said bone fixation element; and

a crimp configured ~~having retaining means~~ for attachment to said flexible filament, said crimp having at least one given cross-sectional width, said at least one given cross-sectional width ~~a third diameter, said third diameter~~ being greater than said first diameter, whereby said crimp is fixedly positionable to said flexible filament adjacent to said proximal end of said bone fixation element so as to prevent distal movement of said flexible filament relative to said bone fixation element and hence prevent distal movement of said graft ligament in the bone tunnel;

positioning said flexible filament through said central bore of said bone fixation element, and positioning said bone fixation element in a first bone tunnel portion, and positioning ~~a~~ said graft ligament in a second bone tunnel portion by drawing said flexible filament through said bone fixation element; and

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attaching said ~~clamp~~ crimp onto said flexible filament adjacent to said proximal end of said bone fixation element so as to prevent movement of said flexible filament toward said distal end of said bone fixation element.